

## Durham Research Online

---

### Deposited in DRO:

26 January 2015

### Version of attached file:

Published Version

### Peer-review status of attached file:

Peer-reviewed

### Citation for published item:

Petrovic, A. and Petrovic, I. (2014) 'Authority and generic heterogeneity of Greek sacred regulations.', in Öffentlichkeit - Monument - Text : XIV Congressus Internationalis Epigraphiae Graecae et Latinae 27. - 31. Augusti MMXII : Akten. Berlin: De Gruyter, pp. 626-628. Corpus inscriptionum Latinarum. Auctarium Series Nova. (4).

### Further information on publisher's website:

<http://www.degruyter.com/view/product/432208?rskey=mO78aHresult=1>

### Publisher's copyright statement:

The final publication is available at [www.degruyter.com](http://www.degruyter.com)

### Additional information:

---

## Use policy

The full-text may be used and/or reproduced, and given to third parties in any format or medium, without prior permission or charge, for personal research or study, educational, or not-for-profit purposes provided that:

- a full bibliographic reference is made to the original source
- a [link](#) is made to the metadata record in DRO
- the full-text is not changed in any way

The full-text must not be sold in any format or medium without the formal permission of the copyright holders.

Please consult the [full DRO policy](#) for further details.

- 4 P. Barresi, *Province dell'Asia Minore. Costo dei marmi, architettura pubblica e committenza*, Roma 2003, p. 328; voir aussi *I.Laodikeia* 85 (monument funéraire de la famille de l'affranchi).
- 5 TAM II 178 et 184.
- 6 RECAM II 34 et 36. Cf. P. R. C. Weaver, *Familia Caesaris. A social study of the Emperor's freedmen and slaves*, Cambridge 1972, 267–281.
- 7 IGRR IV 228.
- 8 Voir n. 6.
- 9 MAMA IV 293.
- 10 *IvPergamon* 290; IGRR IV 277.
- 11 MAMA VII 486.
- 12 J. J. Coulton, N. P. Milner, A. T. Reyes, «Balbura survey: Onesimos and Meleager», *AncSoc* 38, 1988, 121–145.
- 13 Sur les modalités financières, cf. W. W. Buckland, *The Roman Law of Slavery*, Cambridge 1970, 187–206; H. Mouritsen, *The freedman in the Roman world*, Cambridge 2011, 109–118, 228–247.
- 14 *I.Iasos* 253; SEG 43, 1993, 717. Cf. K. Bradley, *Slavery and Society at Rome*, Cambridge 1994, 75–76; L. Schumacher, «On the status of private *actores*, *dispensatores* and *vilici*», dans U. Roth (ed.), *By the sweat of your brow. Roman slavery in its socio-economic setting*, London 2010, 31–47.
- 15 ILS 8858.
- 16 *I.Kyzikos* II, 35.
- 17 Cf. Mouritsen, *op. cit.* 73–75.

Andrej Petrovic – Ivana Petrovic

## Authority and Generic Heterogeneity of Greek Sacred Regulations

Our paper is concerned with the notion of authority in Greek sacred regulations; we posit that the type of authority issuing/prescribing a sacred regulation affects both the content and the textual form of a regulation. We suggest that placing an emphasis on the function of authority in an investigation of sacred regulations might achieve greater understanding of the material,<sup>1</sup> and shed light on distinctive features of human vs. divine agencies in the Greek cultic normative discourse.

Taking as a point of departure our previous work on the topic, we submit that the highest level of authority attested in sacred regulations is found in those which claim to be products of divine agency. Such regulations are typically metrical in form, formulate strikingly different demands to those in prose, and, through their form and language, aim for a higher stylistic register.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, we argue that the regulations sourcing their authority from the human

sphere (at all levels, from private initiatives to official decrees of the city) are of subordinate power and effect, when compared to regulations styled as divine ordinances.

Sacred regulations are notoriously difficult to categorize and define.<sup>3</sup> The first difficulty is their remarkable generic heterogeneity: Extant corpora indiscriminately include laws and decrees issued by various levels of civic administration (in guises of *grafai*, *diagrammata*, *nomoi*, *psephismata* etc.<sup>4</sup>), but also building inscriptions, dedicatory inscriptions, sacred calendars, regulations regarding the auctioning and sale of priesthoods, even sepulchral inscriptions, all containing regulations pertaining to the cult practice. Secondly, the type of information they convey is also vastly diverse (from details of the dress code, to type of the sacrifice, and establishment of festivals).

Crucially, sacred regulations are not only disparate in genre and in the type of information they convey; they also claim different *authorities*. There are state issued legislative acts brought forth by a variety of civic entities (*nomos* of the state: LSAM 16, 3<sup>rd</sup> c. BC, Gambreion, l. 4: νόμον εἶναι Γαμβρειώταις; *psephisma* issued by a deme NGSL 2, 4th c. BC, Eleusis, 18–21: ἐψηφίσθαι τοῖς δημότοις). By the same token, many regulations were issued by civic or religious associations and their officials.<sup>5</sup>

Even though these regulations were brought forth by a variety of civic bodies, it is noteworthy that there was a consistent effort to link the regulations to the divine sphere: The inscriptions were often set up in the sanctuary of the divinity to which the regulation pertained, or in a sanctuary of the main divinity of the city, or simply in the most prominent and frequented sanctuary of the city.<sup>6</sup> A clearer, more direct link between the regulation and a divinity is implied in those cases when the divinity itself sets out the sacred regulations: Such is the ephobic dedication from the Cave of Pan at Marathon (NGSL 4), where regulations concerning the entry to the sanctuary were put in the mouth of Pan 7–8 ἀπαγορεύει ὁ θεὸς | μὴ [εἰ]σφέρειν χρωμάτιν[ον] ... On other occasions, it is simply the name of the divinity at the beginning which offers a clue to the authority of the text, such as a cathartic regulation placed on the entrance to a sanctuary of Isis and Sarapis (NGSL 7) Στάλα Ἱσίου Σαράπιος. | Θεός.

Divinities seem to be especially keen to invest their authority via inscriptions placed at the very doorstep of their sanctuaries. Texts placed at the entrance to a sanctuary were known in Antiquity as *programmata*. They were often composed in meter. Also striking is the way they are rarely – if ever – accompanied by an indication of the authority behind them. Most Greek sacred regulations do tend to spell out which individual or which institution issued them. Why do *programmata* omit this information? We argue that in the case of *programmata*,

the content and their metrical form indicate divine authority as the source of regulation.

Andrej Petrovic, Durham  
 andrej.petrovic@dur.ac.uk  
 Ivana Petrovic, Durham  
 ivana.petrovic@dur.ac.uk

#### Notes:

- 1 On the significance of the notion of authority in Greek religion in general, see R. Parker, *On Greek Religion*, Ithaca/London 2011, 40–63; on constructions of authority in epigraphic context, J. Ma, Epigraphy and the Display of Authority, in: J. Davies/J. Wilkes (eds.), *Epigraphy and the Historical Sciences*, Oxford et al. 2012, 133–158.
- 2 On divine authority and sacred regulations, see A. Petrovic/I. Petrovic, Look who's talking now: speaker and communication in Greek metrical sacred regulations, in: E. Stavrianopoulou (ed.), *Ritual and communication in the Graeco-Roman world*, Liege 2006, 151–179.
- 3 The term is used as an alternative to misleading »*leges sacrae*«; for the long history of the problem, from Prott-Ziehen to Lupu, as well as for paths towards resolution, see recent full treatment by M. Carbon/V. Pirenne-Delforge, Beyond Greek »Sacred Laws«, *Kernos* 25, 2012, 163–182. 2012.
- 4 On terminology, see NGSL, 4–103.
- 5 E. g. NGSL 5, ll. 1–5): Attica, 2nd c. AD.
- 6 Cf. e. g. Iscr.Cos ED 215, Frg. B ll. 14ff. (sale of priesthood, stele in the temenos of the concerned divinity); Iscr.Cos ED 216, Frg. B, ll. 12ff. the stele concerning the sale of the priesthood of Dionysos Thyllophoros to be set up in the sanctuary of the Twelve Gods; Iscr.Cos ED 85, ll. 8–9, the stele concerning the sale of a priesthood to be set up in the sanctuary of Antigonos Doson; Unpublished regulation (decree?), quoted by H. Engelmann, Der Kult des Ares im ionischen Metropolis, in: *Erforschung Kleinasien, Ergänzungsbände zu TAM*, Wien 1993, 171–176, esp. 174–5, dealing with the reorganization of the cult of Ares: it should be inscribed in the sanctuary of Ares next to an already existing *lex sacra*; M. B. Walbank, A Lex Sacra of the State and of the Deme of Kollytos, *Hesperia* 63, 1994, 233–240; BE 1995, 226: the decrees pertaining to the city cult should be inscribed on a stele which should be set up on the Acropolis.